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# OUTLINE TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY.

## VIII.

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### PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES

#### I. LITERARY SOURCES.

##### 1. Contemporaneous Hebrew Sources.

- 1) 640 B. C. Zeph. 1.<sup>1</sup>
- 2) 627 Zeph. 2-3.
- 3) 628-621 Jer. 1-6.<sup>2</sup>
- 4) 628-621 The Primitive Deuteronomy. (?)<sup>3</sup>
- 5) 620 Jer. 11:1-8, 9-23; 12:1-6.
- 6) 608 Jer. 7-10; 26.
- 7) 608-604 Jer. 14; 15; 18; 19:1-20:18.
- 8) 604 Jer. 25; 35(?)

<sup>1</sup> For Zephaniah cf.: Strauss, *Vaticinia Zephaniae*; Reinke, *Der Prophet Zephania*; Pusey, *The Minor Prophets*, II., 225-92; Keil, *The Twelve Minor Prophets*, II., 117-65; Schwally, *Das Buch Ssefanjâ, eine historisch-kritische Untersuchung*, ZAW, X., 165-240; Budde, *Die Bücher Hab. und Zeph.*; StKr, 1893, 383 ff.; Farrar, *Minor Prophets*, 153-8; Orelli, *The Twelve Minor Prophets*, 260-80; Kleinert, *Zephaniah (Lange)*.

<sup>2</sup> For Jeremiah cf.: Blayney, *Jeremiah and Lamentations*<sup>2</sup>; König, *Alttestamentliche Studien*; Henderson, *The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah with that of Lamentations*; Nägelsbach, *Der Prophet Jeremiah und Babylon*; Neumann, *Jeremias von Anathoth, die Weissagungen und Klagelieder des Propheten*, 2 vols.; Graf, *Der Prophet Jeremiah erklärt*; Hitzig, *Der Prophet Jeremiah erklärt*<sup>2</sup>; Keil, *The Prophecies of Jeremiah*, I. and II.; Smith, *Exp.*, 1878, VII., 241-8, 358-68, 453-65, VIII., 59-69, 230-40, 304-15; *Encyc. Brit.*, XIII., 637 ff.; Streane, *Jeremiah and Lamentations*; Cheyne, *Jeremiah, His Life and Times (Men of the Bible)*; Kuenen, *Onderzoek*<sup>2</sup>, II., 157-265; Orelli, *The Prophecies of Jeremiah*; Workman, *The Text of Jeremiah*; Ball, *The Prophecies of Jeremiah (Exp. Bible)*; Bennett, *The Book of Jeremiah, Chaps. XXI-LII (Exp. Bible)*; Driver, *Introduction*<sup>2</sup>, 232-59; Bulmerincq, *Das Zukunftsbild des Propheten Jeremiah aus Anathoth*; Cheyne, *Jeremiah (Pulpit)*.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. refs. in Syl. III., p. 6, n. 2.

- 9) 604 Hab. 1-3.<sup>1</sup>
- 10) 604 Jer. 46-49.
- 11) 603 Jer. 36.
- 12) 597 Jer. 13:1-21.
- 13) 594-593 Jer. 50; 51; 27-29.
- 14) 588 Jer. 21-24; 34:8-22.
- 15) 587 Jer. 37; 38; 30-33; 39; 52.

## 2. Later Hebrew Sources.

- 1) Kings.
- 2) Chronicles.

## 2. LIVING, DESCRIPTIVE, PREDICTIVE PROPHECY.<sup>2 3</sup>

- [1] 686-639 B. C. The period of Manasseh and Amon.]
- 2) 640 B. C. *The impending judgment of Jehovah.* Zeph. 1:1-18.
- [3] 639-608 B. C. The reign of Josiah.]
- [4] 630 B. C. The Scythian invasion.]
- 5) 627 B. C. An exhortation to Judah to repent *before it is too late.* Zeph. 2:1-3:7.
- 6) 627 B. C. **A promise to the faithful of future honor and prosperity.** Zeph. 3:8-20.
- 7) 626 B. C. The call of Jeremiah; Circumstances; Announcement, hesitation, assurance; *first vision (eloquence, commission); second vision (almond tree); third vision (boiling pot); words of cheer.* Jer. 1.

<sup>1</sup> For Habakkuk *cf.*: Delitzsch, *Der Prophet Habakuk*; Delitzsch, *De Hab. Prophetæ vita atque ætate*<sup>2</sup>; Gumpach, *Der Prophet Habakuk—übersetzt*; Carrière, *Étude hist. et crit. sur l'époque de la Prophétie d'Habakuk*; Schneider, *De Carmine Chabaccuci Commentatio*; Stade, *ZAW*, IV., 154-9; Baumgartner, *Le Prophète Habakuk*; Elmslie, *Exp.*, IV., III., 1891, 427-42; Driver, *Introduction*<sup>2</sup>, 316 ff.; Budde, *StKr*, 1893, 383 ff.; Orelli, *The Twelve Minor Prophets*, 240-59; Kleinert, *Habakuk (Lange)*; Budde, *Exp.*, May, 1895, 372-85.

<sup>2</sup> In order to show the close connection of the living prophecy with the descriptive and predictive elements, and to distinguish between the predictions which relate to the immediate future and those which relate to the more remote future, the entire material is given in one list: living prophecy in brackets, descriptive sections in Roman type, predictions of the immediate future in *italic*, and predictions of the remote future in **black-faced type**.

<sup>3</sup> For prophecy in the period of Jeremiah, *cf.*: Duhm, *Die Theologie der Propheten*, 228-51; Ewald, *History of Israel*<sup>2</sup>, IV., 277-87; Duncker, *History of Antiquity*, III., 208-27; Orelli, *O. T. Prophecy*, 329-45; Briggs, *Mess. Prophecy*, 220-65; Stanley,

- 8) 626 B. C. Scythian sermons; Israel faithless, deserving of punishment; unblushingly idolatrous; has only herself to blame; all privileges forfeited. Jer. 2:1-4:5.
- 9) 626 B. C. Israel's confession and acceptance. Jer. 3:21-4:5.
- 10) 626 B. C. Other Scythian sermons, describing (1) The wickedness of the times; (2) *The punishment to be inflicted*. Jer. 4:5-6:30.
- [11) 621 B. C. Josiah's reformation and the finding of the Book of the Law. 2 Kings, 22:8-10; 23:1-3, 21.]
- 12) The essential contents of the book, and its general contribution. Deut., 6:4-5; 12:2-6; 16:21-22; 18:9-15; 28:15-21.
- 13) 620 B. C. Jeremiah's preaching in the interests of this book. Jer. 11:1-8.
- 14) 620 B. C. The trouble involved—Anathoth. Jer. 11:9-23; 12:1-6.
- [15) Josiah's reformation as related to the book of Deuteronomy.]
- [16) 620-608 B. C. The last thirteen years of Josiah; the battle of Megiddo; Josiah's death; the reaction.]
- [17) The reigns of Jehoahaz (608 B. C.), and Jehoiakim (607-597 B. C.).]
- 18) 608 B. C. Repeated rebuke of idolatry and *announcement of judgment*. Jer. 7-10.
- 19) 608 B. C. The trial and acquittal of Jeremiah; summary of chapters 7-10 (26:1-6); impeachment and defense (26:7-15); Micah's case, the result, Urijah (26:16-24).
- 20) 608-604 B. C. The drought; the prophet's intercession; the answer "No"; grief and continued intercession; refusal; *the awful doom*; the prophet's distress; Jehovah's consolation. Jer. 14-15.

*Hist. of the Jewish Church*, II., 567-622; Kirkpatrick, *The Doctrine of the Prophets*, 286-320; Renan, *Hist. of the People of Israel*, III., 120-332; Cornill, *The Prophets of Israel*, 80-107.

- 21) 608-604 B. C. God like the potter; let Israel repent; the hopelessness of the situation; *the approaching calamity*; murder attempted; the prophet's impassioned imprecations. Jer. 18.
- 22) 608-604 B. C. The bottle; *calamity predicted*; breaking of the bottle; *calamity predicted*; *the vengeance of Pashur*; *the prophet's reply*; his passionate outburst; his cry for help. Jer. 19:1-20; 18.
- 23) 604 B. C. The wine-cup of fury; Israel's long disobedience; *coming of Nebuchadrezzar*; *the seventy years of captivity*; *the wine-cup to be drunk by all nations*; *the terrible judgment upon all nations*. Jer. 25.
- 24) 604 B. C. The Rechabites; *application to the case of Judah*. Jer. 35.
- 25) 604 B. C. The prophecy of Habakkuk, a dialogue and a prayer.
  - (a) *Prophet*: O, Lord! the wickedness of our times. Hab. 1:2-4.
  - (b) *God*: *I will bring the Chaldean to punish Judah*. 1:5-11.
  - (c) *Prophet*: O, Lord! think of the desolation wrought by these arrogant Chaldeans. 1:12-17.
  - (d) *God*: [No answer].
  - (e) *Prophet*: O, Lord! I wait for an answer. 2:1.
  - (f) *God*: *Destruction shall come upon Chaldea*—a five-fold woe. 2:2-20.
  - (g) *Prayer*: "A choral echo, anthem of praise to the God who comes to judge and save"—terror and thanksgiving.
- 26) 604 B. C. *Jeremiah's sermons against foreign nations: Egypt, Philistia, Moab, Ammon; Edom; Damascus; Kedar and Hazor; Elam*, Jer. 46-49.
- [27) 603 B. C. The army of Nebuchadrezzar is approaching.]
- 28) 603 B. C. The burning of the roll: its preparation; read before the people and princes; before the king; destroyed; rewritten, Jer. 36.

- 29) Surrender of the city; Jehoiakim becomes a vassal; Daniel and his companions carried away captive; Jehoiakim (600 B. C.) rebels, is put in chains, released; Jeremiah silent for seven years; Nebuchadrezzar (598 B. C.) marches toward Egypt; Jehoiakim dies(?).
- [30) The reigns of Jehoiachin, 597 B.C., and Zedekiah (596-586 B. C.).]
- 31) 597 B. C. The linen-girdle; the wineskin; *message to Jehoiachin*, Jer. 13: 1-21.
- [32) The surrender of Jehoiachin, 2 Kings, 24: 12.]
- 33) 594 B. C. Zedekiah's trip to Babylon; Jeremiah's letter.
  - a) The story of the letter, 51: 59-64.
  - b) The message, to be content in captivity, 50: 1-51: 58.
- 34) 593 B. C. *Address to the envoys against rebellion; to Zedekiah; warning to the priests and people; Hananiah's prediction of return from captivity within two years; Jeremiah's reply; the yoke broken; the iron yoke; letter to the captives; correspondence with Babylonian prophets.* Jer. 27, 28, 29.
- [35) 588 B. C. Arrival of Nebuchadrezzar's army; beginning of siege.]
- 36) Embassy of Zedekiah to Jeremiah; his reply, the words concerning the people; the royal family and Jerusalem; final command to the King. 21: 1-22: 30.
- 37) **The remnant shall return; the Messiah shall come.** 23: 1-8.
- 38) The priests and prophets rebuked. 23: 9-40.
- 39) *The basket of figs; the fate of the good and of the evil.* 24: 1-10.
- 40) Address concerning the manumission of the slaves. 34: 8-22.
- [41) 587 B. C. The siege is raised.]
- 42) Zedekiah's question; *the answer, Nebuchadrezzar will return.* Jer. 37: 1-10.
- 43) 587 B. C. Jeremiah arrested as a deserter; consulted in secret; condemned; lowered in the dungeon; saved by the eunuch; again consulted. 37: 11-38: 28.
- [44) 587 B. C. The siege resumed.]

- 45) Israel shall return from captivity; deliverance will surely come; Israel shall not be as now, forgotten and afflicted; Jerusalem shall be prosperous and in favor with God. 30: 1-24.
- 46) Peace and plenty and God's blessing shall abide with Israel; Ephraim's weeping and remorse shall disappear; Israel and Judah shall together serve God and prosper; Israel's restoration to favor is as certain as the ordinances of nature. 31: 1-40.
- 47) The purchase of land; prayer of agony to God; the reply; *judgment*, but also mercy. 32: 1-44.
- 48) Renewed promise of return, and of honor among the nations; kingly and priestly office shall be reestablished; the covenant of God is as certain as the ordinances of nature; the new covenant. 33: 1-26.
- 49) 594 B. C. Call of Ezekiel; vision of glory; commission; installation. Ezek. 1-3.<sup>1</sup>
- 50) 592 B. C. *Four signs of coming destruction; miniature siege, reclining on side, loathsome food, shaving of hair.* Ezek. 4-5.
- 51) 592 B. C. *Destruction of Israel for idolatry; a remnant shall be left; the death of the nation; the desolation coming; the sanctuary defiled; the miserable captivity.* Ezek. 6-7.
- 52) 591 B. C. *Sermons of impending judgment:*
  - (a) Vision of abominations in the temple, provoking God's wrath. Ezek. 8.
  - (b) Vision of six men with slaughter weapons; the man with the ink-horn; *judgment on the guilty.* Ezek. 9.
  - (c) *Coals of fire upon the city; vision of the cherubim.* Ezek. 10.

<sup>1</sup> For Ezekiel cf.: Hävernick, *Comm. über den Proph. Ezechiel*; Umbreit, *Praktischer Commentar über den Ezechiel*; Kliefoth, *Das Buch Ezechiels übersetzt und erklärt*, I. and II.; Henderson, *The Book of the Prophet Ezekiel*; Zunz, *ZDMG*, XXVII., 676-84; Graetz, *Die Echtheit des Buches des Propheten Ezechiel*, *Monatschrift*, XXIII., 1874, 433-46, 515-25; Hengstenberg, *The Prophecies of Ezekiel*; Charencey, *Les Animaux de la Vision d'Ézéchiél et la Symbolique Chaldéenne*; Keil, *Bibl. Comm. on the Prophecies of Ezekiel*, I. and II.; Fairbairn, *Ezekiel and the Book of his Prophecy*; <sup>4</sup> Klostermann, *StKr*, 1877, 391-439; Ewald, *Comm. on the Prophets of the O. T.*, IV., 1-224; Kuhn, *StKr*, 1882, 601-88; Guthrie, *The Gospel in Ezekiel*; Plumptre, *Exp.*, 1884, VII., 1-18, 161-74, 267-81, 401-16, VIII., 1-17, 161-76, 281-93, 419-30; Cornill, *Das Buch des Proph. Ezechiel herausgegeben*; Kuenen, *Onderzoek*<sup>2</sup>, II., 265-318; Driver, *Introduction*<sup>2</sup>, 260-79; Skinner, *The Book of Ezekiel (Exp. Bible)*; cf. also Syl. 3, p. 6, n. 4.

- (d) Vision of the leaders of the people; *their judgment; the later mercy and salvation.* Ezek. 11.
- (e) *Sign of the king's captivity; of quaking and trembling.* Ezek. 12: 1-20.
- (f) *The speediness of the punishment.* Ezek. 12: 21-28.
- (g) False prophets and prophetesses; God's hand against them. Ezek. 13.
- (h) Idolatrous seekers after oracles; *they shall be cut off; grievous and sure punishments.* Ezek. 14.
- (i) *Parable of the vine-tree, for burning.* Ezek. 15.
- (j) Story of the lewd adulteress; her sin, greater than Sodom or Samaria; *great punishment; ultimate mercy.* Ezek. 16.
- (k) Riddle of two eagles and a vine; its application to the House of David. Ezek. 17.
- (l) God's justice; individual; towards the wicked repenting; towards the righteous revolting. Ezek. 18.
- (m) Lamentation over the princes of Israel. Ezek. 19.
- 53) 590 B. C. *Sermons of impending judgment:*
  - (a) Résumé of God's dealings with the nation; His mercy; their rebellion; *they shall be burned up like a forest.* Ezek. 20.
  - (b) God's sword has been drawn forth; *it brings judgment against Jerusalem, the kingdom, the Ammonites,* Ezek. 21.
  - (c) A catalogue of Jerusalem's sins; *she is ripe for judgment;* all classes are corrupt. Ezek. 22.
  - (d) Judah and Israel alike corrupt; their lovers destroy them; *the impending punishment.* Ezek. 23.
- 54) 588 B. C. *Announcement of the beginning of the siege: boiling of the pot; refraining from mourning.* Ezek. 24.
- 55) 588-586 B. C. *Sermons during the siege:*
  - (a) 588 B. C. *God's vengeance upon Ammon, Moab, Edom, and the Philistines.* Ezek. 25.
  - (b) 587 B. C. *Prophecy against Egypt; her desolation,* Ezek. 29: 1-16.



(c) 586 B. C.

1. *Prophecy against Tyre*; her insults to Jerusalem;  
her utter fall. Ezek. 26–28.

2. *Prophecy against Egypt*; her destruction by Babylon;  
like the overthrow of Assyria. Ezek. 30: 20–31: 18.

(d) 586 B. C. *Prophecy against Egypt*; she shall go down into  
the pit; with all the uncircumcised nations. Ezek. 32.

[56] 586 B. C. The capture and destruction of Jerusalem;  
the fate of Zedekiah; of the inhabitants; the care taken  
of Jeremiah.]

### 3. THE PROPHETIC WORK.

- 1) The prophet no longer occupied a position of any considerable power or influence.
- 2) The false prophets are more numerous and more positive in their efforts.
- 3) The conditional element in prophecy is plainly recognized and announced.
- 4) Under the stress of circumstances the prophetic and priestly elements meet and unite in the Deuteronomic legislation.
- 5) Prophecy is largely restrained by:
  - (a) The growing influence of the priesthood.
  - (b) The suspicion and hostility of the court.
  - (c) The great influence of the false prophets.
  - (d) The presentiments of immediate disaster.
- 6) "How could the prophet exercise his imagination in depicting woes which he already so fully realized?"
- 7) Prophetic work of the preceding centuries is vindicated, but the vindication has been secured at the cost of the nation's life.

### 4. SUMMARIES OF THE PERIOD.

#### I. Ideas concerning "Right Living," "Worship," "Covenant."

- 1) The thought of personal righteousness is not so prominent; the situation is one in which the interests of the state, rather than those of the individual, are considered. Still, each prophet (Zeph., Jer., Hab. and Ezek.) con-

tributes something to the picture of "wickedness" of the times, and points out the right life for individual and nations. National righteousness excludes "rapacity," "self-aggrandizement," "oppression," "delight in conquest," "idolatry." The ideals of life in Deuteronomy are the highest yet presented, because they are in accord with the higher ideal of God which now prevails.

- 2) The evil consequences of worship on the high places are realized, and a reform movement effected by which all official worship is restricted to a central sanctuary. This is a fundamental modification of the whole scheme, and though largely priestly in its origin, is accepted and advocated by prophets. It affects, henceforth, the whole religious life. Though idolatry is revived, the idea of concentration remains. The destruction of the temple lifts "worship" to a higher spiritual plane.
- 3) A *new* covenant is announced, which shall supersede the old. God will forgive the sins of the people and "will write His requirements on the tablets of their hearts." Priests and sacrifice will not be necessary, Jehovah shall sustain a direct relation to each person (individuality).

#### 2. Ideas concerning "God."

- 1) Jehovah is the only God deserving the name Elohim.
- 2) God handles nations as the potter handles clay.
- 3) Jehovah sustains a most tender relation to his people,—silent is his love.
- 4) The love of God, the great idea of Deuteronomy.

#### 3. Ideas concerning "Man," "Sin," "Death."

Nothing important added.

#### 4. Ideas of "Deliverance."

- 1) This element, in the nature of things, not large.
- 2) Conditions of deliverance, lowliness and humility (Zeph.), steadfast faith (Hab.).
- 3) The nation, after the catastrophe, will be restored to honor and prosperity (see topics 45, 46, 48).
- 4) The new covenant (see above).
- 5) The establishment of the Branch (see topic 37).